

“Sacred Writing Time” Slides!

My wife, Dena Harrison, and I require ten-fifteen minutes of writer’s notebook time every day we meet with our students. It’s how we begin every class session. We train our students to observe the world with “a writer’s eyes,” and they constantly ask themselves, “Could I write about what just happened in my writer’s notebook today or tomorrow or Monday?” We call the ten-fifteen minutes “Sacred Writing Time” because it’s our guarantee to our students.

It takes many of our students a little time to learn they’re supposed to *always* come to class with a personally-interesting idea to write about, so we also provide them with some prompting. Our [Monthly Writer’s Notebook Bingo Cards](#) and our [Restaurant-themed Choice Menus](#) are two of our favorite tools for students as they learn to use their “writer’s eyes” These Sacred Writing Time PowerPoint slides are our latest tool for that guaranteed chunk of writing time our students have daily. These slides are displayed as students walk in and take out their notebooks. There are four different pieces of information on each slide (we have them for every day of the year—366 total when you count “Leap Day.”); each piece of information could inspire a student to respond to for fifteen minutes with writing.

The 32 slides that follow this one are the slides we created for August 15-September 15. We invite you to use them, and should they inspire your writers as they do ours, please know that we actually sell the entire set of slides at our website. Check out our [Products Page](#) at Corbett’s website for information on acquiring all of our completely editable Sacred Writing Inspirational Slides.

Yours in improving education,

--Corbett & Dena Harrison, lifelong learners and writing teachers





Sacred Writing Time



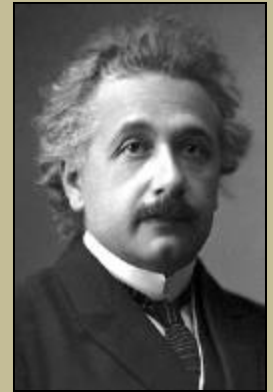
Did you come to class with an idea to write about?
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It's August 15.

Today begins National "Aviation Week." What's the furthest you've ever flown?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Rubber bands last longer when they are refrigerated.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." --Albert Einstein (German-American physicist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *aspersion* (noun) – this fancy word means a *negative feeling* or a *damaging remark*. How many aspersions do you suppose most people experience in one day?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 16.

Today is National "Tell a Joke Day." What do you think is the most over-told joke in the history of mankind?

Trivial Fact of the Day: *Dreamt* is the only English word (for now) that ends with the letters *mt*.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket." --Will Rogers
(American humorist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *despotic* (adjective) – apply this description to paint a picture a leader who is a tyrant and rules with an unkind attitude. Can you name three *despotic* leaders (or *despots*) from history?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 17.

Today is National "Thrift Shop Day." How might you celebrate?

Trivial Fact of the Day: An ounce of gold can be stretched into a wire 50 miles long.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." --Franklin Delano Roosevelt (32nd President of the United States)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *jubilant* (adjective) – use this word to describe a person or event that is joyful. Can you name two people and two events that you would describe with the word *jubilant*?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 18.

Today is National “Serendipity Day.” What serendipitous** event (true or fictional) could you base a funny story on?

Trivial Fact of the Day: A “jiffy” is an actual measurement of time, equaling 1/100th of a second.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong.” --Ella Fitzgerald (American jazz singer)



**Vocabulary Word of the Day: *serendipitous* (adjective) – use this adjective to modify a noun that is a happy accident or a pleasant surprise. When is the last time you experienced something serendipitous?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 19.

Today is “World Humanitarian Day.” If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do you suppose humanitarians eat?

Trivial Fact of the Day: A cat has 32 muscles in each ear while a human has only 6.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead.”

--Louisa May Alcott (American novelist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *dilettante* (noun) – this fancy noun can be applied to someone who dabbles (plays around for fun) with one of the arts. Are you a dilettante who dabbles? If so, with which art?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 20.

Today is National "Radio Day." Tune in to celebrate.

Trivial Fact of the Day: Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different and unique.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "All our dreams can come true—if we have the courage to pursue them." --Walt Disney (American innovator)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *ossify* (verb) – this is an action word that means to become actual bone or to—over time—became rigid with one's beliefs about something. Do you know anyone who became very ossified with their beliefs?



Sacred Writing Time



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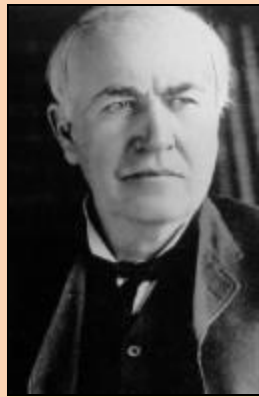
It's August 21.

Today is National "Poet's Day." How *great* to celebrate?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Every U.S. dime has exactly 118 ridges around its edge.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "I haven't failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that don't work." --Thomas Edison (American inventor)

Vocabulary Word of the Day: *nostalgia* (noun) – this is the thing a person feels when they long or ache for the past. Who do you know who shows a lot of nostalgia? What are they mostly nostalgic about?





Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 22.

Today is National “Be An Angel Day.” Who is the most angelic person you know? Who is an angelic character from a favorite book?

Trivial Fact of the Day: England’s Stonehenge is 1500 years older than Rome’s Coliseum.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.” --Harriet Beecher Stowe (American novelist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *mitigate* (verb) – this action word means to make something less severe. How might you complete this sentence? My parents *mitigated* my punishment by _____.



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 23.

Today is National "Ride the Wind Day." What would it be like to ride the wind like a kite or bird or hot air balloon?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Fathers tend to determine the height of their children, mothers the weight.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "The best way *out* is always *through*."
--Robert Frost (American poet)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *vindicate* (verb) – use this action word when someone has been proven or justified to be right. Have you ever been *vindicated* at home? In school? Can you recall a court case where someone was *vindicated*?



Sacred Writing Time



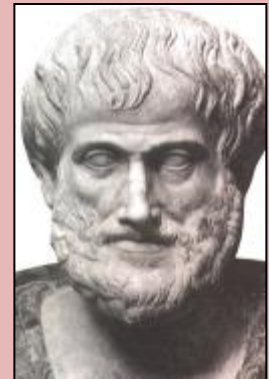
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It's August 24.

Today is National "Waffle Day." How many can you eat at one sitting?

Trivial Fact of the Day: It's actually healthier to kiss than it is to shake hands with someone.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." --Aristotle (Greek philosopher)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *transient* (adjective) – use this word to describe something that lasts only a short time, or something that is impermanent, like a relative's visit. Can you name three other nouns you might describe with this adjective?



Sacred Writing Time



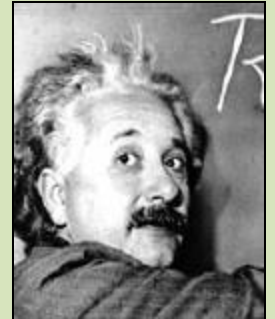
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It's August 25.

Today is National “Kiss and Make Up Day.” Please don’t celebrate in your teacher’s presence.

Trivial Fact of the Day: An elephant is the only animal with four knees.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” --Albert Einstein (German-American physicist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *placid* (adjective) – use this word to describe something that is calm and peaceful, like a lake at dawn, a person meditating. Can you name three other nouns you might describe with this word?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 26.

Today is National “Dog Day.” Would it be just one day or seven days to your dog? Think about it

Trivial Fact of the Day: We, as humans, forget 90% of our dreams.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” --Eleanor Roosevelt (Former First Lady of the United States)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *sanguine* (adjective) – use this word to describe something that is cheerfully optimistic, like a person’s attitude or expectations. Can you name three instances when you might describe yourself with this word?



Sacred Writing Time



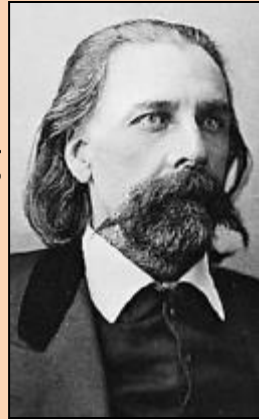
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It's August 27.

It's International "Global Forgiveness Day." Who needs forgiving?

Trivial Fact of the Day: No President of these United States was an only child from his parents.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Success does not consist in never making blunders, but in never making the same one a second time." --Josh Billings (American humorist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *voracious* (adjective) – this word means eating greedily or eating large quantities. Which three holidays have you showing your most *voracious* appetite?



Sacred Writing Time



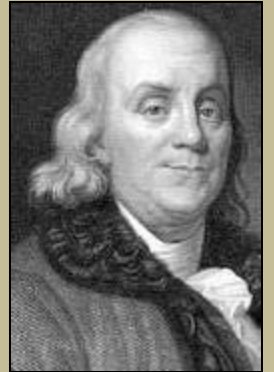
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As soon as class is launched, quietly make that pencil dance!

It's August 28.

It's National "Race Your Mouse Day." Anyone else bring their mouse and a maze today?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Every day, 15 billion cigarettes are smoked worldwide.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight." --Benjamin Franklin (American inventor)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *vilify* (verb) – use this action word to paint a picture of someone or something as a villain or as a really bad thing; to defame or describe as vicious. Who or what is something you might *vilify*?



Sacred Writing Time



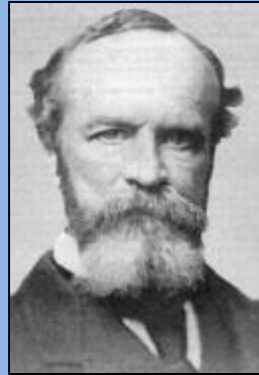
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It's August 29.

It's National "More Herbs, Less Salt Day." Do you think you eat too much salt?

Trivial Fact of the Day: If you plug your nose, you can no longer hum.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook." --William James (American philosopher)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *confound* (verb) – use this action word when someone or something confuses or surprises someone else, usually by doing something unexpected. When was the last time someone else *confounded* you?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 30.

It's National "Frankenstein Day." Have you ever shouted, "It's Alive"?

Trivial Fact of the Day: There are 293 different ways to make change for a dollar.
You can't *change* that fact!

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Elegance is inferior to virtue." --Mary Shelley (English novelist)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *abdicate* (verb) – apply this action word when someone with power gives up that power (like a king), or their duties and obligations. Can you name any leaders who have *abdicated*?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's August 31.

It's National "Trail Mix Day." What's the longest hike you ever endured?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Your foot is probably the same length as your forearm.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." --Margaret Fuller (American journalist and activist)

Vocabulary Word of the Day: *diligence* (noun) – people show this noun when they are working quietly or steadily on a task, often a task that requires exactness or precision. Can you think of three instances when a person might show this noun?





Sacred Writing Time



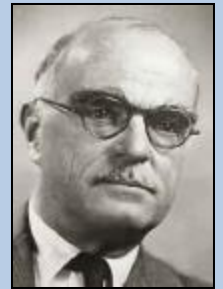
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It's September 1.

Today is “Emma M. Nutt Day.” She was the first female telephone operator. With that name, what do you think her job should have been?

Trivial Fact of the Day: In the U.S., Americans eat about 17 acres of pizza a day.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “Seek the lofty by reading, hearing and seeing great work at some moment every day.” --Thornton Wilder
(Pulitzer-Prize Winning American Author)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *empathy* (noun) – this is what you show when you understand someone else by entering that person's feelings. Have you ever had true *empathy* for a character in a book you're reading, or for a friend?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 2.

Today is National “Blueberry Popsicle Day.” Get ready for blue lips everywhere! Is it the cold or is it the berry stain?

Trivial Fact of the Day: No piece of normal-sized paper can be folded in half more than seven times.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influences of each.” --Henry David Thoreau (American poet and author)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *nonchalant* (adjective) – this word describes someone who seems coolly unconcerned or indifferent. When or where do you feel the most *nonchalant*?



Sacred Writing Time



Did you come to class with an idea to write about?
As soon as class is in session, quietly make that pencil dance!

It's September 3.

Today is National "Skyscraper Day." What's the highest building you've ever been in?

Trivial Fact of the Day: During a windstorm or rainstorm, the Empire State Building can sway several feet from either side.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "A number 2 pencil and a dream can take you anywhere." --Joyce A. Myers (American author)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *scrutinize* (verb) – this is the action you perform when examine something carefully with the intent of verifying something. What are three different instances when you might *scrutinize* something?



Sacred Writing Time



Did you come to class with an idea to write about?
As soon as class begins, quietly make that pencil dance!

It's September 4.

Today is National "Newspaper Carrier Day." How long before this becomes an archaic** holiday? Anyone ever a paperboy out there?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Every human being once spent about half an hour as a single cell.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." --Robert Louis Stevenson (Scottish author of Treasure Island)



**Vocabulary Word of the Day: *archaic* (adjective) – this word describes something that is very old or old-fashioned. What are three things--besides newspaper carriers--that are going to become *archaic* in the near future?



Sacred Writing Time



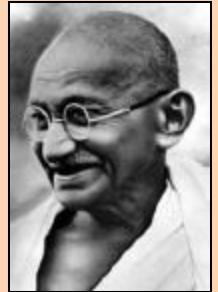
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As soon as class commences, quietly make that pencil dance!

It's September 5.

Today is National "Be Late for Something Day." Please don't celebrate!
At least not in this class!

Trivial Fact of the Day: It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "In a gentle way, you can shake the world."
--Mahatma Gandhi (Indian activist and humanitarian)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *spurious* (adjective) – this word describes something that is plausible (believable) but actually false. Look at today's trivial fact. This was actually proven false by the Mythbusters, but it sounds true. Can you think of any other trivial facts that might be *spurious*?



Sacred Writing Time



Did you come to class with an idea to write about?
As soon as class starts anew, quietly make that pencil dance!

It's September 6.

Today is National "Fight Procrastination Day." Will you celebrate it today or will you wait until tomorrow?

Trivial Fact of the Day: $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321.$

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, 'I'm possible.'" --Audrey Hepburn (American Actress)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *prosaic* (adjective) – this word describes someone or something that lacks wit or imagination. Which reality television show features the most people who could be described with the word *prosaic*?



Sacred Writing Time



Did you come to class with an idea to write about?
As soon as class starts anew, quietly make that pencil dance!

It's September 7.

Today is National "Neither Rain nor Snow Day." Will the weather cooperate?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Other than humans, black lemurs are the only primates that can have blue eyes.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "The glow of one warm thought is to me worth more than money." --Thomas Jefferson (3rd U.S. President)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *hackneyed* (adjective) – this word describes something (like a phrase or cliché) that is repeated too often, or overfamiliar through over-use. Can you think of an expression or joke that has been *hackneyed*?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 8.

Today is International "Literacy Day." How many books do you suppose you have you read in the past year?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Author Frank Baum named "Oz" after a label on his office filing cabinet. The top drawer was labeled "A to N," the bottom "O to Z."

Interesting Quote of the Day: "There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. The true courage is facing danger when you are afraid." --Frank Baum (American author of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *acquiesce* (verb) – this word means to agree silently. To what specific things do you have to *acquiesce* when your parents ask at home?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 9.

Today is National "Teddy Bear Day." What was your first stuffed animal? Do you still have it?

Trivial Fact of the Day: An *arctophile* is a person who collects teddy bears. *Arcto* is the Greek root for *bear*, and *phile* is the Greek root for *lover*.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Rest and you rust." --Helen Hayes
(American actress, star of the 1956 film, Anastasia)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *slothful* (adjective) – this word is a great synonym for *lazy*. On what day of the week are you the most *slothful*?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 10.

Today is National "Swap Ideas Day." How have you celebrated so far?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Large doses of coffee can be lethal. Ten grams, or 100 cups over 4 hours, can kill the average human being.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Minds are like parachutes: they only function when open." --Lord Thomas Robert Dewar
(Scottish businessman)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *inane* (adjective) – this descriptor is a synonym for *silly*. What's the most *inane* movie ever? Book? Joke? Song?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 11.

Today is “9-11 Remembrance Day.” How will you show your respect?

Trivial Fact of the Day: The shortest war on record was fought between Britain and Zanzibar in 1896, lasting only 38 minutes.

Interesting Quote of the Day: “I decided it is better to scream. Silence is the real crime against humanity.” --Nadezhda Mandelstam (Russian author of Hope Against Hope)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *leviathan* (noun) – This word refers to any large marine animal, such as a whale. Ask your science teacher what the three largest *leviathans* are.



Sacred Writing Time



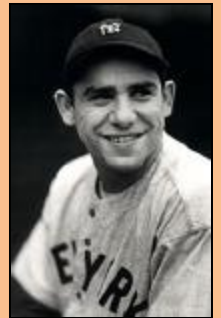
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It's September 12.

Today is National "Video Game Day." Don't celebrate until *after* school and *after* homework, but with which game should you celebrate?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Humans have 46 chromosomes, peas have 14, and crayfish (a.k.a. crawdads) have 200.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "You got to be careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there." --Yogi Berra (Catcher, outfielder, and manager of the New York Yankees)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *dwindle* (verb) – This action word means to become smaller and smaller. What sorts of things do you do when you want your stress level to *dwindle*?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 13.

Today is International "Chocolate Day." What's the best flavor to put inside a chocolate?

Trivial Fact of the Day: Aztec emperor Montezuma drank 50 golden goblets of hot chocolate daily. The thick beverage was dyed red and flavored with chili peppers.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads."

--Erica Jong (American poet and author)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *harrowing* (adjective) – use this word to describe something that is greatly distressing or upsetting. What do some kids do on the school bus that is *harrowing* to the driver?



Sacred Writing Time



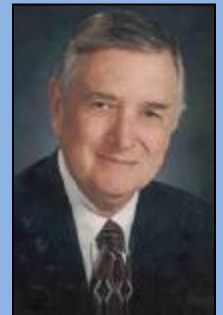
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It's September 14.

Today is National "Cream-filled Donut Day." What's the most amount of donuts you think a person could eat at one setting?

Trivial Fact of the Day: All moons in our Solar System are named after Greek and Roman Gods, except Uranus's, which are named after Shakespearean characters.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark." --Howard Ruff (American financial advisor and author)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *nestle* (verb) – This word means to snuggle or lie close and snug. Where are your favorite places to *nestle*?



Sacred Writing Time



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It's September 15.

Today is International "Day of Democracy." What will you vote for?

Trivial Fact of the Day: There are four U.S. presidents who *never* held any other elective office: Ulysses Grant, William Taft, Herbert Hoover, and Dwight Eisenhower.

Interesting Quote of the Day: "It's never too late to be what you might have been." --George Eliot (pseudonym for Mary Anne Evans, British author of Silas Marner)



Vocabulary Word of the Day: *ominous* (adjective) – This word suggests that something evil or harmful is about to come true. Storm clouds can be *ominous*. What are two or three other things that might be described this way?

“Sacred Writing Time” Slides!

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Yours in improving education,

--Corbett & Dena Harrison, lifelong learners and writing teachers

